

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Morgan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE  
LEAGUE OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2012*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Service League of San Mateo County which for a half-century has provided services and created hope for thousands of county jail inmates and their families. The compassionate volunteers and staff work tirelessly to make certain inmates and former inmates have access to programs, services and support networks they need to re-enter the community as contributing citizens and responsible family members.

Every day the Service League helps individuals who have lost their way get a step closer to productive lives and benefits our entire community by reducing criminal activity and recidivism. I am privileged to be a member of the Advisory Board of this great organization.

Under the outstanding leadership of executive director Mike Nevin, the Service League continues to offer a broad range of programs covering humanitarian, educational, substance abuse, recovery, spiritual and personal growth services. While some of the needs of inmates may seem obvious, such as contact with attorneys, probation officers and employers, the Service League also the less obvious needs. The "Jury Trial Clothes" program, for example, levels the playing field for inmates who are unable to afford clothing suitable for court appearances, jail procedures, or facility programs. The Service League solicits donations and dresses inmates for trial. "Inmate Orientations" are held twice weekly to provide information to newly-jailed individuals about the correctional process and facility programs, such as AA, NA, and church services. "Outreach to Families" of inmates provides friendly support, referral, advocacy and emergency assistance. The County Office of Education offers GED tutoring and testing at some facilities and the Service League supports this effort by training volunteers to tutor inmates one on one.

The Service League also operates six Hope Houses, two residential homes for women, two transitional homes for women and two transitional homes for men. Those facilities truly live up to their name! Karen Francone-Hart, director of the Service League, started the first six-bed Hope House in 1990. Thinking back to that time, Karen reflects that "each day, each step reminded me of nurturing a new infant."

Hope Houses provide a 180-day residential treatment program for women who are involved in the criminal justice program. These women are prepared to become responsible, productive and independent members of the community while living in a safe, nurturing and clean environment. After completing the 180-day treatment program, the women are allowed to move into a transitional living program—Hope House II—as long as they stay employed or are attending school. The suc-

cess of this program speaks for itself: 85% of the women who complete the program are reunited with their children, 70% remain clean, sober and crime free and 60% become gainfully employed.

Diane Joiner is one of the women who found her path through Hope House. While she was in jail, she participated in the "Hope Inside" program, a group led by the Hope House staff. When she was released, she sought residential treatment at a Hope House. She graduated from the 180-day program and is now happily employed by Goodwill Industries where she received a promotion shortly after being hired. Diane was given a second chance, regained her life and is now a proud, productive member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, the volunteers and staff of the Service League of San Mateo County recognize the humanity in every single member of our society. I ask this body to rise with me to honor their passion to build a better tomorrow for all of us.

COMMEMORATING THE UNVEILING  
OF STONE MARKER ACKNOWLEDGING  
THE ROLE OF ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS  
IN CONSTRUCTING THE CAPITOL  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today we honor enslaved African Americans with the unveiling of this great stone and marker once quarried by them for The Capitol of the United States. This dedicated marker will serve as a reminder to all who enter The Capitol of the hands and hearts that built this great place that fosters democracy at the highest level.

I include a poem penned in honor of those enslaved African Americans by Albert Caswell. The poem is entitled,

AND FROM THESE HANDS

And . . .  
And from these hands . . .  
As now so stands  
A Temple to Liberty so very grand  
One of Freedom, for every child, woman, and man  
From these hands  
For out of their blood, sweat, and tears  
As upon this Hill as now so appears  
Is but a shrine to democracy so very clear  
From these hands  
Whether Captain Pointer, pointing the way  
Guiding those ships,  
As upon them this most sacred marble and stone so lay  
Or at the very top,  
How poignant, Reid so helped Freedom to keep watch  
Now both night and day  
So listen so closely here,  
As to heart speaks so clear  
Of what it took to build this great temple here  
And To Be Free  
Much effort and sacrifice indeed  
And as you enter your heart skips a beat  
Into the great Rotunda at night, as like a prayer  
Can you but not feel their very souls in there?  
All because these fine men, who once so per-severed

Oh how ironic as was this fate  
That this Temple of Freedom,  
Was so once built by slaves!  
From . . . These . . . Hands . . . which gave!  
As their souls are so now etched everywhere  
But look at what they so made

As generations have so come to pass  
And new hands in this temple have labored  
steadfast

All in our nation's struggle to so ask  
The ones, who have so fought against hatred  
so clear

Trying to vanquish discrimination year after year

Can you but not feel Martin's tears?  
And today, if they could all be here  
Would they but not so shed a tear?  
All at what they so see here

So say a prayer, and all of these  
Who but with their hands and hearts,  
And souls so built this great Temple of Liberty

The ones who so placed this great stone  
All in that fight  
All in Freedom's home,  
So one day we could all be here  
Free

So on this day  
This marker of remembrance we now place  
All for what they so taught us,  
So gave

As we see their great efforts all etched into this stone

They made

Like quarried stone, Freedom too does not come so easy!

Only through such blood, sweat, and tears can this all be!

In our lives, what have we made  
From . . . these . . . hands . . .

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2012*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, during final consideration of H.R. 347, the Federal Restricted Buildings and Grounds Improvement Act of 2011, I inadvertently voted "nay" on rollcall vote 73 when I intended to vote "aye". I would like the record to reflect that I support the bill, which creates sensible penalties for knowingly breaching the security of locations such as the White House and its grounds.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICK WYKOFF

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2012*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Foster City Councilmember Rick Wykoff for his decades of public service on the occasion of his retirement on December 5, 2011. He served on the City Council for the last ten years and was city manager from 1977–1994.

I have known Rick for over 30 years and have witnessed his dedication to, and passion for, our community. He thrived in the many positions he has held over the years throughout California.

Foster City is extraordinarily fortunate that Rick offered his experience as city manager, his wisdom and talent to the city council for